

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Algeria

DATE DISTR. 22 July 1949

SUBJECT Recent Activities of the Union des Femmes d'Algerie

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. On May 21, 1949, the Union des Femmes d'Algerie (UFA), Communist front organization, held a meeting in the auditorium of the new Municipal Building in Algiers. About 700 persons, two-thirds of whom were Arab, and including some men, were present. The organization had the right to meet in a public building because at the time of its formation in 1943 it was non-communist and deposited its charter and statutes legally with the Prefecture and municipality.

2. The following persons addressed the meeting:

Mme Jean Garoby
Mme Evelyn Minsky ✓

Mme Simone Bertrand
Mme Lucienne Mazellin

Mme Lien Thai-Thi

Mme Archimede Gertie
Mlle Alice Sportisse
Mme Djeimane (fnu)
Mme Louisa Amour
Mme Baya Allaouchiche
Mme Beraud (fnu)
Mme Manaranche

President of the UFA
American; secretary of the Federation
Internationale Democratique de Femmes ✓
Councillor of the French Union
Secretary of the UFA for the Department
of the Seine ✓
Delegate from Viet-Nam; member of the
Communist Party since 1945
Delegate from Guadaloupe ✓

Secretary of the UFA

The points developed in the many speeches followed the usual Communist line in Algeria: anti-colonialism, opposition to the war in Viet-Nam, opposition to the Atlantic Pact.

4. The following motions were passed: the dismissal of Governor General Maegelen, the dissolution of the Algerian Assembly because of alleged irregularities in the elections, the liberation of political prisoners, the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam, the withdrawal of Algeria from the Atlantic Pact.

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5. On 25 May the UFA held a meeting in Blida, a town of 60,000 twenty-five miles west of Algiers. About 45 persons were present. In addition to Gertie, Minsky, Thai-Thi, Mazellin, and Bertrand, named above, the following local representatives were present: Mme Guerab (fnu), Mme Barcelo (fnu). Also present was Ahmed Mahmoudi, prominent member of the Algerian Communist Party and member of the Conseil General. Speakers made the usual propaganda points. Delegates visited Arab homes in Blida and made a trip for propaganda purposes to a small anti-French Arab village in the mountains near Blida. When their demonstration here was opposed by a local gendarme, Mrs. Minsky came to blows with him. There appeared to be no repercussions of the incident.
6. On 11 June the UFA organized a meeting at the Rialto Cinema in Algiers, at which approximately 100 persons were present. Among the speakers on the occasion, in addition to Garoby, Sportisse, Allaouchiche, Djeimane, and Manaranche (mentioned above), were Mme Rippol (fnu), and Mme Juan (fnu). There was nothing worthy of note in the speeches.

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